Towards e\ ening he drew down his army and ordered that the Count Farneze, an Italian, should first give on with 2,000 Italian and Spaniards upon the sandhills, the breach and the curtain of the old town, the Governor of Dixmude with 2,000 upon the Porkespy and Helmont, with 500 upon the west ravelin, and with other m all 8,000 men to assault the west side, and the Count of Bucquoy to assault the east side, the east ravelin and the new haven

Sir Francis Vere knowing the enemies' attempt that he would assault at low water slept not, but was exceeding careful and vigilant, and because there were no spare parts, beams and pah-sadoes in the magazine, caused divers houses that were shot to be pulled down and caused the carpenters to make palisadoes and stockadoes of them, and at high water he caused to be shut the west sluices and engrossed as much water as he could into the old and new town Then he disposed his weak forces as best he could for the defence, for in all he could not muster above 1,200 to resist an army of 10,000 men The ordnance he planted upon the bulwark called Helmont and upon the case-ment of the west bulwark, and here he made choice of the best cannoneers in the town, amongst the rest an Englishman called Francis the Gurmer, an excellent cannoneer , and because they should be sure to take their mark right upon their cog, before it grew dark he commanded them to let fly two or three cannon bullets upon the strand and towards the new haven to see for a trial where those bullets fell, that they might find their ground better m the night Moreover upon the top of the breach and along the curtain of the old tower were set firkins of ashes, with

fnze rutters or quadrant tanters nails, three sticking in the ground and one upright, and many heaps of stones and brickbats, ropes of pitch, hoops bound with squibs, hand grenadoes and clubs (which they called Hercules clubs), with heavy heads of wood and nails driven into the squares of them , all these the Lord General prepared for the entertainment and welcome of the enemy

When it began to grow darkish, a little before low water, Sir Francis Vere called for an old soldier, a gentleman of his company, to go out sentinel *perdu,* and creeping out to the strand between the two gabions gave him express command, if he saw